UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/847,509	05/02/2001	David A. Christopher	35451/119 (3597.Palm)	7864

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2835	

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _16 August 2004_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-4,6,9-13 and 15-39_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _1-4,6,9-13 and 15-39_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _02 May 2001_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Due to the newly discovered references the finality of the last Office action is

withdrawn, and the prosecution of the application is reopened. The following is the new

Non-Final rejection.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments filed 08/16/2004 have been fully considered but they are

not persuasive.

First: Examiner directs applicant's attention to the fact that Schlack et al teach exactly

the same computer system hardware structure as it is claimed in the instant application.

Second: In the specification applicant has not provided any single line of a description,

block diagrams, or a program code to support a "software" part of independent claims 1,

13, 21 and 35. Related to said interface program Fig.2 shows only how an exemplary

screen display of the user interface may look, and paragraph **[0022]** describes only how

to use it, but there is no any description of how said interface program is made or

actually works. To illustrate examiner's understanding of a sufficiently disclosed

hardware/software system Garney (US Patent 5,412,798) is cited as sufficiently

disclosing a hardware/software system having an access to multiple memory cards (or

other card-like devices) inserted in respective card slots of an expansion device.

Third: Regarding to the statement in applicant's arguments that: " Schlack et al teach

away from the need for dragging and dropping one file from one card to another card

while in the docking station" (Appeal Brief, page 6, lines 15-17). Examiner disagrees.

Schlack et al teach two options: One- that additional card expansion slots 74 are

accessible by the handheld computer 10 when it is located in the docking station 70;

and another- that said card slots 74 are accessible by the personal computer 80 when

said handheld computer 10 is not located in the docking station 70. In this case Schlack

et al teach that the memory cards are transferred from the docking station 70 to the

handheld computer 10. However, nowhere Schlack et al teach that the third option is

not available- the one when all computer parts: the handheld computer 10, the personal

computer 80, and the docking station 70 are connected together. Neither Schlack et al

teach that while said memory cards are inserted in the docking station and are

accessible either by the handheld computer 10 or by the personal computer 80, their

content cannot be manipulated in a way as applicant claimed it. The term "accessible

file" in Windows Operating Systems means in the art that the content of said file can be

read, transferred to another file, deleted, etc.

Fourth: Regarding to the statement in applicant's arguments that: "...nowhere in the

teachings of Windows is there teachings that files could be transferred between memory

cards in a docking station." (Appeal Brief, page 6, lines 26-27). Examiner disagrees. It is

inherent that Windows Operating System is not designed to support only one particular

computer structure. That is why different peripheral devices need different software

drivers in order to be recognized and manipulated in the Windows Operating System

environment. When using USB connections (as it is recommended by the applicant in

the instant application) for any additional peripheral device (including any number of so

called "card readers/writers), Windows considers each of them as an additional hard

disk drive and is able to manipulate their content exactly as it is claimed by the applicant

in the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for

all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-4, 6, 9-10, 13, 15-16, 20-26, 28-30 and 35-39 are rejected under

35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Schlack et al in view of Windows Operating System (See

included "Express for Windows User's Guide", Front page and chapters 3, 5; An article:

"Windows 95 FAQ-Beginners USERS TIPS"; and an article: "Windows 95 & USB

Support") and Kobayashi (US Patent 6,199,122).

Schlack et al teach a synchronization docking station (synchronization cradle), Fig.20,

(col.11, line 53 through col.12, line 56) for a handheld computer 10, comprising: a data

connection configured to communicate data from the docking station to the handheld

computer and vice versa; and more than one (two) expansion card connector slots 74

coupled (integrated into) to the docking station and configured to communicate between

an expansion slot and the docking station, wherein the docking station includes a

datalink configured to communicate data to a personal computer 80, said personal

computer and said handheld computer inherently include programs (so called "drivers")

configured to read and to display the content stored on the expansion card. Schlack et

al teach furthermore: said expansion card connectors are configured to communicate

data between the expansion cards and the handheld computer 10; said datalink could

be wireless (col.7, lines 63-67); said docking station could be connected to a

communication network through a modem module 78; and as it is typical for any

computer docking station data processing system, data files managing system by

Schlack et al (col.6, lines 5-37, and col.8, line 54 through col.9, line 45) allows to identify

all of the expansion cards received in the card slots 74; to access the contents of files

on the expansion cards; and to perform selective transfers of the files between the

expansion cards and the handheld or personal computers. Schlack et al also teach that

card expansion slots 74 are accessible by the handheld computer 10, when it is located

in the docking station 70, or alternatively by a personal computer 80, when it is

connected to said docking station (col.11, lines 53-68). Although it is inherent that

computers 10 and 80 in the device by Schlack et al each uses some kind of Operating

System, and are provided with some kind of a user interface program(s) for a docking

station 70, Schlack et al do not teach, which Operating System the computer system is

using, and do not directly teach that said Operating System includes a program

comprising a user interface having an expansion card indicating area and content area,

the interface enabling the user to drag and drop functionality to transfer expansion card

content from one card to another card. Windows Operating System provides a computer

user with ability to read, write and exchange data from/to/between each of a plurality of

connected to the main computer peripheral devices by using provided with them

respective software programs (drivers), and enables the computer user to drag and

drop functionality to transfer data content from one peripheral device to another.

Kobayashi teaches a computer system Figs.12-13 (col. 13, line 16 through col.14, line

46) and respective software program, Figs.3-9, comprising a main computer 11

(desktop, laptop, palmtop or PDA); and an external data storage device (card

reader/writer) 12 having two flash memory card slots 125A and 125B. Kobayashi

teaches teaches furthermore said computer system is handling (accessing) said flash

memory cards in the same way as the magnetic disk drives (abstract and col.3, lines

62-65) by providing a particular type of a conversion controller 122 and a particular ATA

controller 124. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time invention

was made to employ a computer system and software program described by Kobayashi

in a computer system described by Schlack et al with the Windows Operating System

(95/98/2000) for the main personal computer 80; with the Windows Operating System

CE for the handheld computer 10, and to employ said Windows Operating Systems

features allowing them to recognize said docking station 70 card slots 74 as an

additional hard disk drive: "E"; "F"; e.g. , and to communicate with said handheld

computer 10 and with said docking station 70 including two card slots 74, by creating

files indicating media area as said additional hard disk drive: "E"; "F"; e.g., naming the

files and their content, and enabling user to drag and drop files between different

indicated areas, in order to enhance effectiveness of the computer system and facilitate

user's communication with the computer system.

5.   Regarding to the claims 11-12, 17-19, 27, 31-34: Computer system by

Schlack et al and Kobayashi being provided with software by Kobayashi and Windows

Operating Systems, teaches all the limitations of the claims except for: a secure digital

card (SD), or a multimedia card (MMC), or a battery, or a cellular phone transceiver, or

a camera, or a MP3 player being inserted into a card slot of the docking station (By

Schlack et al expansion cards are memory cards without specifying their kind). Card-

type peripheral devices such as digital cameras, rechargeable batteries packs, MP3

players, cellular phones, input-output connectors, displays, etc are well known in the art

(Good examples are: a card-type digital cameras described in the Japanese Patent

JP411243501A by Osawa, US Patent 6,292,272 by Okauchi et al and US Patent

6,118,485 by Hinoue et al; a card-type MP3 Player described by Kim in the Korean

patent 2001026970A; a card-type display described by Fukushi in the Japan Patent

JP02001101356A; a card-type rechargeable batteries pack described in the article:

"Personal Computer Menu Card International Association Compatible battery and

Charging cards", IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, September 1993, US Vol.36, Issue

9A, Pages 167-170; a card type cellular phone described by Ishibashi in the Japan

patent JP020000921171A; and a card type input-output connectors described by

Ozawa et al in the US Patent Re. 36, 769). It would have been an obvious matter of

design choice to use said card slots to insert a secure digital card (SD), or a multimedia

card (MMC), or a rechargeable battery, or a cellular phone transceiver, or a digital

camera, or a MP3 player, since applicant has not disclosed that a type of the inserted

device solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the

invention would perform equally well with any kind of available electronic device having appropriate size and electrical connection. Regarding to the claims 35-39: The method steps are obviously necessitated by the device structure as Schlack et al provided with software described above, describe it.

6.   Claims 1-4, 6, 9-10, 13, 15-17, 20-26, 28-30 and 35-39 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeh in view of Windows Operating System (See included "Express for Windows User's Guide", Front page and chapters 3, 5; An article: "Windows 95 FAQ-Beginners USERS TIPS"; and an article: "Windows 95 & USB Support").

Yeh teaches a synchronization docking station (synchronization cradle 100, Figs.1-5, for a handheld computer 250, comprising: a data connection 116, 302 configured to communicate data from the docking station 100 to the handheld computer 250 and vice versa; and more than one (two) expansion card connector slots 110, 111 coupled (integrated into) to the docking station 100 and configured to communicate between an expansion slots and the docking station, wherein the docking station 100 includes a datalink configured to communicate data to a personal computer (col.7, lines 58-67), said personal computer and said handheld computer include programs (so called "drivers") configured to read and to display the content stored on the expansion card. Yeh teaches furthermore: said expansion card connectors are configured to communicate data between the expansion cards and the handheld computer 250; said docking station could be connected to a communication network through a wireless modem module 401; and allows to identify all of the expansion cards received in the

card slots 110, 111; to access the contents of files on the expansion cards; and **to perform transfers of the files between the expansion cards themselves (col.5, lines 43-49),** and the handheld or personal computers. Yeh teaches that his system uses a Mircosoft Operating system "DOS" (col.7, lines 45-61), as known at the time of the application was filed (year 1993), and hence, does not teach that said Operating System includes a program comprising a user interface window on the screen having an expansion card indicating area and content area, and enabling the computer user to drag and drop functionality to transfer expansion card content from one card to another card. Windows Operating System, well known since 1995, provides a computer user with the ability to read, write and exchange data from/to/between each of a plurality of connected to the main computer peripheral devices by using provided with them respective software programs (drivers), and enables the computer user to drag and drop functionality to transfer data content from one peripheral device to another. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time invention was made to employ a computer system described by Yeh with the Windows Operating System ("95" or "97" or "98" or "2000") for the main personal computer; and with the Windows Operating System "CE" for the handheld computer 250, in order to use said Windows Operating Systems features allowing to recognize said docking station 100 card slots 110 and 111 as an additional hard disk drive: "E"; "F"; e.g. , and to communicate with said handheld computer 250 and with said docking station 100 including two card slots 110, 111, by creating files indicating media area as said additional hard disk drive: "E"; "F"; e.g., naming the files and their content, and enabling user to drag and drop files

between different indicated areas, in order to enhance effectiveness of the computer

system and facilitate user's communication with the computer system. Regarding to the

claims 11-12, 18-19, 27, 31-34: Computer system by Yeh being provided with Windows

Operating Systems, teaches all the limitations of the claims except for: a secure digital

card (SD), or a multimedia card (MMC), or a battery, or a camera, or a MP3 player

being inserted into a card slot of the docking station. Card- type peripheral devices such

as digital cameras, rechargeable batteries packs, MP3 players, input-output connectors,

displays, etc are well known in the art (Good examples are: a card-type digital cameras

described in the Japanese Patent JP411243501A by Osawa, US Patent 6,292,272 by

Okauchi et al and US Patent 6,118,485 by Hinoue et al; a card-type MP3 Player

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a type of the inserted device solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose

and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with any kind of available

electronic device having appropriate size and electrical connection. Regarding to the

claims 35-39: The method steps are obviously necessitated by the device structure as

Yeh describes it and being provided with Windows Operating System.

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Michael V Datskovskiy whose telephone number is

(571) 272-2040. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2092. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

        Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

09/30/04

Michael V Datskovskiy
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2835